will not be retrenched on account of closure of mines or suspension of mining operations but will be suitably redeployed.

Handing over surplus mining blocks to private entrepreneurs by CIL

4182. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether CIL has been criticised for not handing over surplus mining blocks to private entrepreneurs;

(b) if so, whether to sustain the projected coal production in the next few years, there is a need to hand over surplus mining blocks to private entrepreneurs; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries have identified 121 blocks/sub-blocks and Singareni Collieries Company Limited has identified 7 blocks, totally 128 blocks, have been identified for allocation to public/private sector for captive mining. While out of the above blocks 27 blocks have been allotted so far, mining of coal has started in 4 blocks.

Removal of coal mafia from coal mines

4183. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to crack down on coal mafia who are active in various coal mines;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether fake coal linkage companies have also been identified recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to remove coal mafia from various coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) and (b) Whenever reports of any irregularities are received, the Government and the coal companies take necessary corrective measures. The measures taken to check the irregularities are as follows :